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CONCLUSION.

During the past five years smallpox in the United States has shown a steady and gratifying decrease. In 1902 there were reported 55,857 cases with 1,852 deaths; during 1906 there were reported 12,503 cases with 90 deaths.^a This decrease has doubtless been brought about by increased vigilance on the part of State and national authorities and the wide dissemination of information in regard to the prevention of the disease. Many cities and States have enacted ordinances requiring the vaccination of all children before they may be allowed to attend the public schools. In Germany, where vaccination is compulsory and universal, during the year 1906 there were in the whole Empire but 26 cases of smallpox with 5 deaths, and these cases were largely imported from neighboring countries, where smallpox is prevalent and unchecked by general vaccination. The experience of Germany, where compulsory vaccination has been in force for thirty years, proves conclusively that smallpox as existing in the United States is entirely unnecessary, and vaccination, and revaccination can not be too strongly urged as the only means of removing this pest from our midst.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

Report from Vanceboro, Me.—Smallpox on the Canadian border—Train inspection.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Young reports, March 30, as follows:

Week ended March 30, 1907. Inspected 18 trains carrying about 1,800 passengers; vaccinated 140; accepted certificates of vaccination and nonexposure to infection in the case of 90. Information is received from a county health officer of an extended outbreak of smallpox in the counties of Colchester, Antigonish, Halifax, Yarmouth, Digby, and Pictou, Nova Scotia, as well as in Kent County, New Brunswick. These outbreaks were the result of concealed cases.

Report from Cape Fear Quarantine Station, N. C.—Beriberi on bark Aeolus.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Sprague reports, April 2, as follows:

The Swedish bark *Aeolus*, which arrived at this station from Santos, Brazil, via Barbados had 2 cases of beriberi among the crew. The symptoms developed in both cases after departure from Santos. One patient has almost entirely recovered and the other is improving. The vessel has been thoroughly fumigated, the effects of the crew have been disinfected, and free pratique was issued to-day.

STATISTICAL REPORTS OF MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY, STATES AND CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES—UNTABULATED.

CALIFORNIA.—Month of December, 1906. Estimated population 1,882,846. Total number of deaths reported to the State board of health, 2,683, corresponding to an annual death rate of 17.1 per 1,000

^a Public Health Reports.